



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
 United States Patent and Trademark Office
 Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
 P.O. Box 1450
 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
 www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/923,362	08/08/2001	Glenn Raymond McClendon III	1330.1103	8925
21171	7590	07/15/2005	EXAMINER	
STAAS & HALSEY LLP SUITE 700 1201 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W. WASHINGTON, DC 20005			MCCLELLAN, JAMES S	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3627	

DATE MAILED: 07/15/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/923,362	Applicant(s) MCCLENDON ET AL.	
	Examiner James S. McClellan	Art Unit 3627	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 April 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 23-31 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 23-32 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Amendment

1. Applicant's submittal of an amendment on April 5, 2005 was entered, wherein:
 - claims 23-31 are pending;
 - claims 1-23 have been canceled; and
 - claims 23-31 have been added.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claim 23-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,117,356 (hereinafter "Marks")

Regarding **claim 23**, Marks discloses a method comprising: entering accounting amount (TT2; see column 6, lines 15-60) information on accounting lines (column 4, lines 15-18; see also column 6, lines 15-60, TT1-TT11), processing the information entered on the accounting lines to create posting lines (temporary file records), each posting line including a debit, credit, or a debit/credit pair (see TT4); storing the created posting lines in an electronic catalog (file 28; see Figure 1); marking posting lines (see column 11, lines 4-15); selecting posting lines stored in the catalog (file 28); posting the selected posting lines to a journal (permanent transaction journal

Art Unit: 3627

30); and posting the journal entries (30) to a ledger (control general ledger 22; see Figure 1); **[claim 24]** said marking marks respective posting lines (temp. file records) to indicate whether the respective posting lines are ready to post (see column 11, lines 4-14); **[claim 25]** correcting posting lines (see column 13, lines 54-60) by a person using a computer; and **[claim 26]** said marking marks at least one corrected posting line (see column 13, lines 54-60).

It is noted that Marks automatically checks for posting lines (temp. file records) that are ready to post to the journal by verifying the debits and credits balance. Once the computer verifies that the debits and credits are balanced, then posting lines (temp. file records) are posted. However, Marks fails to disclose a person marking a posting line to indicate if it is ready to post. Marks notes in the Background section of his disclosure that accounting recording keeping can be performed manually (see columns 1 and 2). Mark's claimed system utilizes a computer to automate certain aspects of the recording keeping process while leaving other aspects (such as inputting transaction data; see column 4, lines 15-18) to a person for manual processing.

The Examiner concludes that it would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made for a person to manually mark the posting lines to indicate they are ready to be posted by manually checking that the debits and credits balance in place of the automatic system, because manual checking, while slower, may be used to spot accounting errors not originally programmed into the computer system.

Claims 27-29 are rejected for reasons similar to those set for above in detail for claims 23-26.

4. Claims 30 and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Marks in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,249,905 (hereinafter "Yoshida").

Art Unit: 3627

Regarding **claim 30**, Marks discloses a method comprising: entering accounting amount (TT2; see column 6, lines 15-60) information on accounting lines (column 4, lines 15-18; see also column 6, lines 15-60, TT1-TT11), processing the information entered on the accounting lines to create posting lines (temporary file records), each posting line including a debit, credit, or a debit/credit pair (see TT4); storing the created posting lines in an electronic catalog (file 28; see Figure 1); marking posting lines (see column 11, lines 4-15); selecting posting lines stored in the catalog (file 28); posting the selected posting lines to a journal (permanent transaction journal 30); and posting the journal entries (30) to a ledger (control general ledger 22; see Figure 1). It is noted that Marks automatically checks for posting lines (temp. file records) that are ready to post to the journal by verifying the debits and credits balance. Once the computer verifies that the debits and credits are balanced, then posting lines (temp. file records) are posted. However, Marks fails to disclose a person marking a posting line to indicate if it is ready to post. Marks notes in the Background section of his disclosure that accounting recording keeping can be performed manually (see columns 1 and 2). Mark's claimed system utilizes a computer to automate certain aspects of the recording keeping process while leaving other aspects (such as inputting transaction data; see column 4, lines 15-18) to a person for manual processing.

The Examiner concludes that it would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made for a person to manually mark the posting lines to indicate they are ready to be posted by manually checking that the debits and credits balance in place of the automatic system, because manual checking, while slower, may be used to spot accounting errors not originally programmed into the computer system.

Art Unit: 3627

Furthermore, Marks fails to explicitly disclose splitting posting lines into a plurality of posting lines.

Yoshida teaches the use of splitting aggregate transactions into two or more new transactions and then posting the new transactions (see column 5, lines 52-55).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Marks with splitting feature as taught by Yoshida, because splitting transactions provides users more simple transaction to review, whereby improving a user's ability to spot accounting errors.

Claim 31 is rejected for reasons similar to those set for above in detail for claims 30.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments filed April 5, 2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant's arguments are moot in view of the new grounds of rejection necessitated by Applicant's amendment.

Conclusion

6. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO**

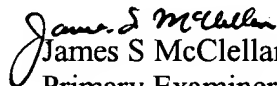
Art Unit: 3627

MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James S. McClellan whose telephone number is (571) 272-6786. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (9:30-6:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Alexander Kalinowski can be reached on (571) 272-6771. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


James S McClellan
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3627

jsm
7/8/05